



UNITED STATES SENATOR · MICHIGAN
DEBBIE STABENOW
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Stabenow Testifies in Support of Prescription Drug Reimportation Efforts

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) testified this morning before the Consumer Affairs Subcommittee regarding the need for legislation to allow for the reimportation of prescription drugs. Later this session, Senators Stabenow, Dorgan and Jeffords are expected to offer a reimportation amendment on an appropriations bill.

"I find it ironic that in this era of free trade, we have effectively erected barriers on our borders that force American citizens to purchase their prescription drugs at prices that are often twice that paid by our neighbors in Canada and every other country in the world. We need to remove this health care tariff and allow our citizens to buy FDA-approved medications wherever they can get the best price," Stabenow said.

A leader in the fight to lower the cost of prescription drugs, Stabenow has long been a supporter of such legislation, which could dramatically lower health care costs in this country by giving Americans the chance to buy safe, FDA-approved prescription drugs from other countries.

"During my Senate campaign last year, I organized bus trips for Michigan seniors who wished to purchase their prescriptions in Canada. What I discovered on those trips was unforgettable -- the seniors saved nearly 50 percent on their medications," said Stabenow. "We must act quickly to pass this legislation, which would have an immediate positive impact for those who cannot afford the prescriptions they need to stay healthy."

The first bill Stabenow introduced in the U.S. Senate was the Medication Equality and Drug Savings (MEDS) Act, which would increase consumer access to lower-priced drugs in other countries -- such as Canada -- that have safety standards similar to the United States. Stabenow's legislation would remove legal barriers to both individuals and wholesalers who choose to import FDA-approved prescription medications.

"It is only fair that citizens should be able to buy their prescriptions in the same kind of free market they buy their stereos, computers and cameras," said Stabenow. "It is time the pharmaceutical industry's monopoly comes to an end and American consumers are finally given the opportunity to enter the world marketplace."